

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/620,586

Applicant(s)

CROWELL, BRIAN R.

Examiner

Art Unit

Douglas S. Lee

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/20/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/20/05</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

I. Applicant cancels claims 18-21 in his response filed 6/20/2005, and this application is in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claim 1, the allowability, at least in part, resides in a system for communicating information between a power tool and an independent subsystem using a power cord of the tool as a signal conducting medium, fails to teach in part a controller disposed with said tool operable to recognize said input signal and to enter a communications mode of operation; an electronic module disposed within said tool for storing operational information relating to said power tool, said electronic module being in communication with said controller; wherein said controller obtains said operational information from said electronic module and causes periodic pulses, representative of said operational information, to be transmitted over said power cord in synchronization with said input signal; and wherein said interface system decodes said periodic pulses to obtain said operational information. Regarding claim 7, the allowability, at least in part, resides in a system for communicating information between a power tool having a power cord, an internal motor, a switch in communication with said power cord for switching on and off said motor, and a storage module for storing operational information relating to said tool, fails to teach in part a controller disposed with said tool and operatively coupled with said switch, said controller operating to recognize said input signal and to enter a communications mode of operation, said controller being in communication with said storage module; wherein

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said controller obtains said operational information from said electronic module and causes periodic pulses, representative of said operational information, to be transmitted over said power cord in synchronization with said input signal back to said interface subsystem; and wherein said interface system decodes said periodic pulses to obtain said operational information. Regarding claim 13, the allowability, at least in part, resides in a system for communicating information between a power tool having a power cord, an internal motor, a switch in communication with said power cord for switching on and off said motor, and a storage module for storing operational information relating to said tool, fails to teach in part an independent interface subsystem adapted to be coupled to said power cord for facilitating bi-directional communications with said power tool, via said power cord; said independent interface subsystem operating to initiate a communications mode between said power tool and said interface subsystem by applying an input signal having a frequency greater than 60 Hz and being of insufficient magnitude to cause rotation of said motor; and a controller disposed within a housing of said tool for recognizing said input signal and transmitting signal pulses, via said switch, corresponding to said stored operational information over said power cord back to said interface subsystem for decoding by said interface subsystem.

2. Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-17 are allowed for the same reasons above.

Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Douglas Lee, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3745. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM- 4:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Leo Picard*, can be reached on (571) 272-3749 or via e-mail addressed to [*leo.picard@uspto.gov*]. The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [*doug.lee@uspto.gov*].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631.

Douglas Lee



10/12/2005



LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100